

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Summer School Assignment

### The Giver – Lois Lowry

As you read *The Giver*, you are to keep a journal of responses to the questions/tasks below. You will need to keep your journal in a composition notebook. Label each entry with the journal number and date. Entries should be in complete sentences and in paragraph form. Each paragraph should be at least 8 sentences. Spelling and Punctuation count. **Be creative!**

**Journal 1:** Before reading the book, write each statement in your journal and respond to each statement with a true or false. Write a few sentences on why you chose that response.

1. Sometimes it's okay to lie.
2. Memories play an important part in your life and who you are.
3. It is better to never experience cold and hunger.
4. History repeats itself.
5. People in society accept things they usually would not if they were on their own.
6. It is better to be part of a group than to be alone.
7. It is better to remain ignorant about some aspects of life.
8. It is better to be in a safe environment and feel fear.

**Journal 2:** (Chapter 1) What are some clues that Jonas's community is different from the one in which you live? What seems odd or different about it? What do you think you would enjoy about this society? What do you think would drive you crazy about it?

**Journal 3:** Create a chart to keep track of four categories (Rules, Rituals, Jobs and Jargon (special vocabulary of Jonas' society) of information about this new society. Every time you read something new please write it down in your chart. Example:

Rules	Rituals	Jobs	Jargon

**Journal 4:** (Chapter 2) How would you feel not to have your own individual birthday? If you were attending the Ceremony of Twelve with Jonas, what Assignment do you think the Elders would select for you?

**Journal 5:** After reading Chapters 1-5, answer each question with one or two sentences:

1. What do you think might happen to someone who is released from the community?
2. Name one thing you learned about the community from the discussion during the ritual telling of feelings.
3. What is different about the way children are born and infants are cared for in the community?
4. Why was it so difficult to get rules changed in the community?
5. Why were Gabe's eyes of such interest to Jonas?
6. How did Lily react to the new word "hippo"? Why did she react this way?

**Journal 6:** (Chapters 9 & 10) How do you think Jonas feels knowing that he can lie to others? If you were to choose one person that could share a memory with you, who would it be and why?

**Journal 7:** Jonas learns about the concept of "sameness" in chapter 11. Is there any kind of situation that would make you willing to trade your life for "sameness"? If so, what would it be? If not, why not?

**Journal 8:** Jonas's dream is an important part of foreshadowing. What is foreshadowing? If

you were Jonas, how would you react to that dream?

**Journal 9:** Imagine a world without color. What color would you miss the most? Illustrate your community, school, park half with color and the other half without. Which one do you like better? Why?

**Journal 10:** (Chapter 15) The memory of warfare is shocking for Jonas and really affects him. If you were suddenly drafted into the military and surrounded by some of your fellow troop members being killed, how would you respond? What would you do to try to keep your sanity?

**Journal 11:** (Chapter 16) The memories that Jonas has have transformed him from a naive child to an adult. How is this like the change from elementary school to middle school?

**Journal 12:** Jonas realizes that his knowledge of the past has made him an outsider among his peers. When have you felt like an outsider among your peers? Describe what happened.

**Journal 13:** (Chapter 19) What do you think of what Jonas's community calls "release"? Were you surprised at what it was? How do you think this new knowledge will affect Jonas?

**Journal 14:** After reading Chapters 20- 23, answer each question with one or two sentences:

1. Why doesn't the Giver leave?
2. What happens when Jonas leaves? Where does he go? What does he find?
3. Why does Jonas take Gabe with him?
4. Do you think that Jonas regrets leaving? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think the book begins and ends in December?

**Journal 15:** The name Jonas is a variation of the name Jonah. In the Bible, the prophet Jonah was commissioned by the Lord to proclaim judgment upon a sinful city. Why might Lois Lowry have chosen Jonas as the name of her main character?

**Journal 16:** Write a short summary of what you think happens to Jonas after the end of the book.

**Journal 17:** Draw a character sketch about your favorite character in the story. List at least 5 character traits that he or she possesses.

**Journal 18:** Rate the book on a scale from 1-10. Did you like it, yes or no? Would you recommend it to anyone?

**\*\*Please bring the book and completed journal on the first day of school. Be prepared for class discussion.**